GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2731
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Income Tax through e-Filing
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is marked increase in the number of income tax filled through e-Filing;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of income tax return processed and the quantum of refunds issued in the current fiscal;

(c) whether the Government has issued instructions for immediate income tax refunds resulting in speedy disbursal of majority of refunds amounting to less than Rs. 50,000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to process income tax return in a time bound manner?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE:

(a)& (b): The number of e-filed Income Tax Returns in Financial Year 2016-17(till 28.02.2017) was 4.21 Cr. which represented an increase of twenty-one percent over the number filed during the corresponding period of last financial year.

The number of e-returns processed in Financial Year 2016-17 (till 28.02.2017) was 4.30 Cr.(this included the returns filed during Financial Year 2016-17 as well as backlog for earlier years).

The total amount of refund issued in the current fiscal (including refund arising out of rectification, appeal effect etc.) is Rs. 1,48,459 crore (till 28.02.2017).

(c) & (d): The Government accords high priority to expeditious issue of refunds, particularly to small taxpayers. During Financial Year 2016-17, as on 10.02.2017, 98% of the refunds of less than Rs. 50,000/- have been issued and only 2% remain to be issued. Majority of these cases relate to recently filed tax returns or where the taxpayers' response to the Department is awaited.

Further, to ensure expeditious disposal of backlog of refunds upto Rs. 5,000/- in non scrutiny cases pertaining to Assessment Year's 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, instructions have been issued to field units to issue refunds in these cases without adjustment against the outstanding demand.

(e): The law provides that income-tax returns are to be processed within a period of one year from the end of the financial year in which the return is made. Efforts have been made to shorten the timeframe over the years through greater thrust on automation, smoothening the process for e-filing, and proactive monitoring. During the current fiscal, 90% of the refunds have been issued within 60 days and 67% within 30 days of filing of return.